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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 375
By Kisber

A RESOLUTION To designate June, 2001 as "Rockabilly Music Month".

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich music heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1950s, the unique sounds of each of Tennessee's Grand Divisions were melded together to form a new sound that soon took the music industry by storm – Rockabilly; and

WHEREAS, Fueled by the unbridled success of such stars as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, and Bill Haley and the Comets, Rockabilly music soon filled America's airwaves with its driving guitar licks, heavy snare drum beat, and strong vocals; and

WHEREAS, The Rockabilly sound has proven to be timeless; even today, music fans, young and old, soon instinctively begin to tap their toes whenever they hear any of the countless Rockabilly classics; and

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WHEREAS, In honor of the genre's talented musicians, the International Rock-A-Billy Music Hall of Fame, Inc. in Jackson will celebrate its Grand Opening on June 28, 2001; the Hall will undoubtedly prove immensely popular among the devoted fans who will flock to the museum to view rare photographs and memorabilia and learn about the history of Rockabilly music; and

WHEREAS, Following the Grand Opening, Shelby Singleton, owner of the famed Sun Records, will host a party honoring the artists and other guests who will be attending the celebration; and

WHEREAS, Rockabilly Fest 2001 will coincide with the Grand Opening of the Hall of Fame, adding greatly to the festive atmosphere of the celebration; being "the world's largest gathering of Rockabilly artists and history makers," the Fest will include more than 30 hours of Rockabilly music and will feature Bill Haley's original Comets, Wanda Jackson, Ace Cannon, Narvel Felts, Big Al Downing, Billy Burnette, D. J. Fontana, Stan Perkins, and Ray Walker and the Jordanares; and

WHEREAS, Maria Elena Holly, widow of Buddy Holly, and Barbara Orbison, widow of Roy Orbison, will be in attendance to greet fans and discuss the lives and unparalleled legacies of their late husbands; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of fans from around the globe are expected to make a pilgrimage to Jackson for this unique event; and

WHEREAS, The highlight of Rockabilly Fest 2001 will be an attempt to establish a new world record for "The Most Drummers Playing a Full Set of Drums on One Song"; the drummers will be led in their rhythm by legendary drummers from the Elvis Presley Band, the Jerry Lee Lewis Band, the Carl Perkins Band, the Pam Tillis Band, the Velvet Elvis Band, and Bill Haley's Comets; and

WHEREAS, This spectacular event will be recorded and broadcast nationally on public television; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we designate June 2001 as "Rockabilly Music Month" in celebration of the Grand Opening of the International Rock-A-Billy Music Hall of Fame, Inc. and in recognition of the vastly talented artists who will be enshrined the Hall of Fame.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.